

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 08794 211539Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 211510Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6544

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 8794

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BR

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA ON
POST-QUITO SITUATION

REF: STATE 255863

1. I DELIVERED THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER
SILVEIRA AT 12:45 P.M. NOVEMBER 20.

2. IN READING THE SECOND PARAGRAPH OF THE LETTER SILVEIRA
SAID THAT HE CERTAINLY AGREED WITH THE SECRETARY'S JUDGMENT.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE POINTS RAISED IN THE LETTER'S
THIRD PARA, HE SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO GIVE THEM CAREFUL
THOUGHT BEFORE REPLYING TO THE SECRETARY BUT THAT HE THOUGHT
THAT THE ROAD ON THE CUBAN QUESTION WAS BLOCKED FOR THE
TIME BEING AND THAT THE SITUATION WAS "VERY DIFFICULT."
HERE HE SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT TALKED TO THE GOC,
HE DOUBTED VERY MUCH THAT TRUCCO WOULD BE ABLE TO GET GOC
APPROVAL FOR HIS PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE VOTING REQUIREMENTS
(STATE 253530) BECAUSE SUCH AN INITIATIVE WOULD BE AT ODDS WITH
CHILE'S HARD POSITION. HE NOTED THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL
HAD ASKED HIM IN QUITO HIS VIEW ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF THE
OUTCOME THERE ON THE DIALOGUE AND BA AND THAT HE HAD
REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT THAT MATTERS HAD BEEN COMPLICATED
CONSIDERABLY AND THAT HE WAS SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE EXISTENCE
OF A CONSENSUS ON CUBAN PARTICIPATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRASIL 08794 211539Z

4. HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT TALKED WITH THE ARGENTINES ABOUT THEIR INTENTIONS ABOUT PROCEEDING ON THE WASHINGTON UNDERSTANDING, BUT THAT HE WOULD DO SO WHEN HE RETURNED FROM HIS TRIP TO SENEGAL AND PORTUGAL (HE WILL BE GONE FROM NOV 24 TO ABOUT DEC 4). HE SPECULATED, ON THE BASIS OF HIS CONVERSATIONS IN QUITO WITH AMBASSADOR BENITEZ, THAT ARGENTINA MIGHT BE MORE CAUTIOUS NOW THAN IN THE PAST. (BENITEZ, ACCORDING TO SILVEIRA, HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD BEEN VERY SURPRISED TO FIND OUT HOW INVOLVED IN THE CUBA ISSUE VIGNES HAD BECOME. SILVEIRA CONSIDERS BENITEZ, WHOM HE KNOWS VERY WELL, TO BE SOUNDER AND EASIER TO DEAL WITH THAN VIGNES.)

5. THINKING OUT LOUD, SILVEIRA SAID THAT AFTER HIS TRIP HE MIGHT TAKE SOME SOUNDINGS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS ON THEIR THINKING ABOUT CUBA AND BUENOS AIRES. HE EXPLAINED THAT IN QUITO HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY AT LEAST TWELVE COUNTRIES TO KEEP IN TOUCH ON THE CUBAN MATTER AND THAT THIS INTEREST WOULD, AS HE PUT IT, PROVIDE COVER FOR HIS INQUIRIES.

6. SILVEIRA ALSO GAVE ME A RATHER DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE QUITO MEETING FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW. A GOOD DEAL OF WHAT HE RELATED IS COVERED IN QUITO'S 7724 (DEPTO 49) AND OTHER REPORTING FROM THE USDEL. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS HE MADE WERE THESE:

A. HE REALLY THOUGHT THE MEETING HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE IN THAT ALL THE PARTICIPANTS HAD BEEN FRANK, CLEAR AND OBJECTIVE IN STATING THEIR POSITIONS. THERE HAD BEEN ONLY TWO MOMENTS AT WHICH THE CONFERENCE HAD THREATENED TO DEGENERATE INTO SHARP CONFRONTATION AND ON BOTH OCCASIONS HE HAD STEPPED IN TO CALM THINGS DOWN. THE ISSUE, HE SAID, HAD NOT BEEN MATURE (RIPE), BUT THE PARTICIPANTS HAD BEEN.

B. IF THE MEETING HAD GONE ON ANOTHER DAY, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND ONE OTHER COUNTRY MIGHT HAVE GONE OVER TO ABSTENTION, AND FACIO HIMSELF MIGHT HAVE COME ALONG IF THERE HAD BEEN FIVE DAYS MORE AVAILABLE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRASIL 08794 211539Z

C. THE ECUADOREAN PRESIDENT HAD INTIMATED TO HIM, AND LUCION PAREDES HAD CONFIRMED, THAT ECUADOR DID NOT PLAN TO RESUME RELATIONS WITH CUBA UNILATERALLY. FACIO HAD SAID THE SAME WITH RESPECT TO COSTA RICA.

D. FACIO HAD SAID TO HIM THAT HE HAD RELIED ON THE SECOND-HAND ASSURANCES OF "OTHER CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES."

E. HE HAD TOLD THE BARBADIAN AND JAMAICAN REPRESENTATIVES
THAT HE CONSIDERED THEIR FINAL STATEMENTS ABOUT THE SOVERIGN
RIGHT OF NATIONS TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH ANYONE TO BE
NOT ONLY JURIDICALLY UNSOUND IN TERMS OF RIO TREATY
OBLIGATIONS BUT ALSO INSOLENT. HE SAID HE HAD POINTED OUT
TO THEM THAT THE SPANISH-SPEAKING DELEGATIONS HAD NOT WANTED TO
GIVE THE NON-RIO TREATY DELEGATIONS THE RIGHT TO SPEAK AND
ONLY THE ACTIONS OF THE U.S. AND BRAZIL HAD MADE IT POSSIBLE
FOR THEM TO MAKE THEIR STATEMENTS.
CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRASIL08794
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740337-0479
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741125/aaaaauxd.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: STATE 255863
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 SEP 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <13 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER FROM SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA ON POST-QUITO SITUATION
TAGS: PFOR, BR, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (SILVEIRA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005